MR. E. I. CHACKO: There is one clause in the Factories Act which prohibits the employment of children under 12 years of age in a factory. At least, about 35 to 50 per cent of the employees in a cashew-nut Factory are children, because the work is of such a character, easy enough for children. If children are not permitted to do such work, the charges of manufacture will go up and most of the factories may have to stop work on account of higher cost of production at a time when such increase in cost cannot be borne by this industry.

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI: Is there any recommendation from the Director of Industries to the effect that in view of the exemption for children, some clauses of the Act need not be put into operation for some time until this particular defect is improved?

MR. E. I. CHACKO: That is under the consideration of the Department.

Certificates of the Intermediate Examination.

181. *MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the agency that supplied to the University of Travancore paper for printing the certificates issued to the candidates who have passed the Intermediate Examination of the Travancore University held in September 1941;

(*b*) whether some such certificates were printed on paper having the water mark thereon of any bank in liquidation; and

(*c*) if so, the name of such a bank?

DR. H. PARAMESWARAN: (*a*) The Huzur Stationery Department.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The Travancore National and Quilon Bank.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know the quality of paper that was purchased with the water mark of the Travancore National and Quilon Bank for supply to the University?

DR. H. PARAMESWARAN: The paper was purchased at 3 as. 6 pies.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether there was any confiscation of that?

DR. H. PARAMESWARAN: No, Sir,

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether any accounts are kept for the paper that came into the hands of the Superintendent of Stationery?

DR. H. PARAMESWARAN: Certainly, Sir. It was noticed that a special quality of paper was needed for printing certificates. This quality had run short with Government. For meeting this need in the present emergency of a war, Government was not able to get this kind of paper from anywhere else. Hence this paper had to be bought in the open market, when we came to know of its existence.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know for what amount was the paper purchased?

DR. H. PARAMESWARAN: I cannot at present remember the full value of the paper. I remember the rate and it is 3 as. 6 pies. per lb.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: My question is about the purchase of the paper. What is the total quantity please?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

DR. H. PARAMESWARAN: About 200 reams for the needs of the University.

Storing of rice.

182. ***MR. P. S. MUHAMED:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are in possession of any quantity of rice purchased by them?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Yes.

MR. G. VELU PILLAI (*Karunagapalli* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know the total quantity of rice remaining with Government?

PRESIDENT: It is not in public interest to disclose that information. If it is given, at once the wholesale dealers will greatly value it.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI: Government rice நாகர்கோவிலில் ஸ்டாக் செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறதா? ஆனால் எவ்வளவு? நாகர்கோவிலிலுள்ள நாஞ்சநாட்டு அரிசியை கச்சவடக்காரர்கள் கோட்டை ஒன்றுக்கு 9 ரூபாய்க்கு மேல் விற்கக் கூடாது என்று ஏதாவது ஆர்டரை கவர்மெண்டு பிறப்பித்திருக்கிறார்களா?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: This question does not arise from this answer. There is no specific order like that so far. But the question is engaging the attention of Government.

MR. M. SIVATAHNU PILLAI: கேற்றயத்தினம் திருவனந்தபுரம் District Magistrate அவர்கள் நாகர்கோவிலுக்குச் சென்று, அங்குள்ள கச்சவடக்காரர்கள் ஒருவரும் தங்களிடமிருக்கிற அரிசியை 9 ரூபாய்க்குமேல் விற்கக்கூடாது என்று சொல்லியிருக்கிறார்களா? 14, 15, 16, 17 ரூபாய்க்கு வாங்கி குறைந்த விலைக்கு விற்க கச்சவடக்காரர்கள் சம்மதிக்கவில்லை என்பது மெம்பருக்குத் தெரியுமா?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: May I explain, Sir. It was reported that Kottar paddy which was obtained from local producers at very low rates, was being sold at exorbitant rates, even at Rs. 12 or 13 per Kottah. Consequently, the price of Kottar rice at Trivandrum had gone up to Rs. 17 and 17½. That was considered to be extortionate. The District Magistrate of Trivandrum, by virtue of the powers conferred on him under the Essential Commodities Order, went to Kottar and advised the merchants that if they were to sell local paddy at such high rates Government might have to take action under the said Order. An agreement was arrived at with the merchants and they agreed to sell rice at the rate of Rs. 9 per Kottah. That was only a matter of mutal agreement. That is the position as reported by the District Magistrate.

PRESIDENT: If there is any complaint from a wholesale dealer that he has been unfairly dealt with, then that will be investigated by the Government.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: இதிலிருந்து கவர்மெண்டின் விலை 9 ரூபாய் என்று நாங்கள் மனசிலாக்கவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. ஏதோ சில கச்சவடக்காரர்கள் தான் இந்தக் கான்பரன்ஸில் கலந்துகொண்டார்கள் என்பது மெம்பருக்குத் தெரியுமா?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly